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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application of

OKANO et al.

Application Number: 10/018,430

Filed: December 20, 2001

**For: CENTRIFUGAL SEPARATOR AND SAMPLE
PREPARATION DEVICE USING THE SEPARATOR**

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. NITT.0050

Art Unit 1723

**Examiner:
Drodge, Joseph W.**

**Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Sir:

This is in response to the office action dated October 7, 2003, in the above identified application, the period for response is set to expire on January 7, 2004. Please amend the above identified application as follows: